

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 852

UNCLAS SOFIA 0394

FOR CU/EE, CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, BU

SUBJECT: RICHARDS QUINTET

1. BULGARIAN IMPRESARIO AGENCY "SOFIACONCERT" HAS INVITED RICHARDS QUINTET FROM MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY (MSU) TO PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL "SOFIA MUSICAL WEEKS" FESTIVAL IN LATE MAY/EARLY JUNE. E.L. KIRK, MUSIC DEPT, MSU, HAS ADVISED QUINTET UNABLE ACCEPT UNLESS AIR TRANSPORT EAST LANSING-LONDON AND RETURN CAN BE ARRANGED. ("SOFIACONCERT" IS PROVIDING LONDON-SOFIA-LONDON TICKETS AND ALL LOCAL EXPENSES.) QUINTET IS "ANXIOUS TO ACCEPT" AND PLANS PRESENT AMERICAN MUSIC.

2. PLEASE ADVISE IF CU MUSIC PANEL HAS RATED RICHARDS QADMOET; IF NOT, PLEASE ARRANGE RATING AND/OR ADVISE REVIEWS BY MEDIA CRITICS. IF QUINTET IS OF SUFFICIENT MUSICAL QUALITY, WE STRONGLY URGE CU TO ASSIST BY ARRANGING TRANS-ATLANTIC TRAVEL, PERHAPS BY INCREASING CU GRANT TO MSU'S "ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE" PROGRAM. IF THE QUINTET IS NOT OF SUFFICIENT QUALITY, PLEASE ADVISE OF ALTERNATIVE CHAMBER GROUP WHICH WE COULD RECOMMEND TO "SOFIACONCERT" AND WHICH WOULD NOT DEMAND OVERLY LARGE FEE, ALL IN FOREIGN CURRENCY. (WE NOTE FROM STATE A-863 THAT BOSTON MUSICA VIVA, WHICH IS RATED "OUTSTANDING," WILL BE IN EUROPE AND HAS OPEN DATES DURING FESTIVAL PERIOD.)

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3. JUSTIFICATION: "SOFIA MUSICAL WEEKS" IS MOST

IMPORTANT MUSICAL FESTIVAL IN BULGARIAN CAPITAL. QUINTET WOULD APPARENTLY BE ONLY AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS AND PROVIDE ALL-TOO-RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR BULGARIANS TO HEAR AMERICAN MUSIC. NO OTHER AMERICAN GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN BULGARIA BETWEEN JOSE LIMON DANCE TROUPE LAST SEPTEMBER AND LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA NEXT DECEMBER.

4. FYI: OTHER FOREIGN MUSICAL GROUPS SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE IN "SOFIA MUSICAL WEEKS" ARE "FUCH TRIO" FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA, "BAMBERG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA" FROM EAST GERMANY, AND "RESIDENCE ORCHESTRA" FROM NETHERLANDS, PLUS UNNAMED VIOLIN-PIANO DUO FROM WEST BERLIN AND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA FROM SLOVAKIA. RICHARDS QUINTET WOULD PERFORM JUNE 5 IN SOFIA AS PART OF FESTIVAL AND ALSO APPEAR TWICE IN OTHER BULGARIAN CITIES (PLACES AND DATES TBA).
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